

What we claim is:

1. A web site design tool comprising:

5 a plurality of design modules;

 an interface enabling selection, by a user, of different ones of the design
modules of the plurality to be included in a web site, the selected design modules
forming a package of design modules; and

 means for forwarding the package of design modules to a client web site
10 server.

2. The web site design tool of claim 1, wherein the plurality of design modules
includes visual modules and functional modules.

3. The web site design tool of claim 1 wherein the interface is a graphical user
15 interface.

4. The web site design tool of claim 1, wherein the design modules include a
navigation tree for indicating a relation of web pages in the web site.

5. The web site design tool of claim 1, wherein the design modules include
administration modules for administering the web-site.

20 6. A method for designing a web site for a client including the steps of

 selecting a design module from a plurality of design modules at a graphic
user interface; and

 forwarding the design module to the client.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the design module is a graphical user interface.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein the design module is a functional module.

9. A method of building a web site at a client web site server including the steps of:

5 receiving, from a host web server, a plurality of design modules;

building a directory structure for the plurality of design modules;

building web pages for the web site in response to the directory structure, the step
of building including linking content to the web pages.

10 10. A computer comprising:

a memory storing a plurality of web pages associated with a web site, the
computer comprising a directory structure, identifying locations of modules that are used
to provide functional and visual attributes for the web pages,

content for display on the web site; and

15 means for linking the content to the web pages.

11. A method for updating a module at a client including the steps of:

receiving, at the client, a module having an identifier;

determining whether the module is an existing module at the client;

20 responsive to a determination that the module is an existing

module at the client, comparing a version number of the existing module
to a version number of the received module;

responsive to the version number of the received module
exceeding the version number of the existing module, storing the received
module in memory and updating a pointer in a data structure that points to
the existing module to point to the received module.

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12. In a modular web design system wherein web sites are comprised of a plurality of
linked modules, a method for updating one of the modules including the steps of:

forwarding an updated version of one of the modules to a client
using the one of the modules;

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storing, at the client, the updated version of the one of the modules;
replacing, in a directory structure at the client, a first pointer to an
existing version of the one of the modules with a second point to the
updated version of the one of the modules.